

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10619 211333Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /075 W
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P 1211235Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5881

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2931

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER PRIORITY

CINSUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY

CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB NE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, LE

SUBJ: ISRAELI AIR FORCE STRIKE AGAINST LEBANESE VILLAGES IN
EASTERN BEKAA VALLEY

1. THE ASSISTANT G-2 OF THE LEBANESE ARMY HAS CONFIRMED
TO DATT THAT BEGINNING ABOUT 1900 ON AG 20, FOUR ISRAELI
AIRCRAFT CONDUCTED A STRAFING AND BOMBING ATTACK ON THE
LEBANESE VILLAGES OF MAARABOUN AND HAM IN THE EASTERN
BEKAA VALLEY.

2. THE ASSISTANT G-2 SAID THE AIR ATTACK LASTED FOR ABOUT
TWENTY MINUTES AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING CIVILIAN CASUAL-
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TIES:

12 KILLED (THREE LEBANESE AND NINE PALESTINIANS), 28 WOUNDED (15 LEBANESE, SIX PALESTINIANS, THREE SYRIANS AND FOUR OF UNKNOWN NATIONALITY), AND NINE HOUSES DESTROYED. THE G-2 OFFICER SAID LEBANESE AIR DEFENSE UNITS STATIONED AT NEARBY RIYAAQ AIR BASE FIRED ON THE ISRAELI AIRCRAFT WITH ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE STRIKING AT A PFLP TRAINING CAMP IN THE AREA.

3. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT WHILE MOST BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS DEVOTED SOME FRONT PAGE SPACE TO ACCOUNTS OF THIS ATTACK THE INCIDENT WAS GIVEN STIFF COMPETITION AS A LEADING STORY ON THE RADIO AND IN MANY DAILIES BY OTHER LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS. THIS LATEST RAID IS WIDELY AND PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED HERE AS AN ISRAELI REPRISAL/ WARNING REACTION TO THE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT ON AUG 20 BY PFLP FEDAYEEN TO CARRY OUT TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF HANITA (TEL AVIV 1550/DTG 201300Z AUG75).
GODLEY

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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06 JUL 2006

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